

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings and versions of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A system for intradermal or transdermal delivery of a water-soluble, poorly water-soluble, or water-insoluble cosmetic agent comprising:

(i) an apparatus for facilitating intradermal or transdermal delivery of a cosmetic agent through the skin of a subject, the apparatus comprises:

a. an electrode cartridge comprising a plurality of electrodes to be oriented generally perpendicularly to the skin with electrode ends in the vicinity of the skin; and

b. a main unit comprising a control unit which is adapted to apply electrical energy between two or more electrodes when the electrodes are in vicinity of the skin, typically generating current flow or one or more sparks, enabling ablation of stratum corneum in an area beneath the electrodes, thereby generating in the stratum corneum a plurality of micro-channels having a diameter of about 10 microns to about 100 microns and a depth of about 20 microns to about 300 microns; and

(ii) a cosmetic or dermatological composition comprising at least one water-soluble, poorly water-soluble or water-insoluble cosmetic agent and a cosmetically or dermatologically acceptable carrier, the cosmetic or dermatological composition devoid of permeation enhancers is adapted to be applied to the area on the skin after the micro-channels are generated,

wherein the electrode cartridge is configured and dimensioned for removable attachment to the main unit wherein the cartridge is attached to the main unit for generating said plurality of micro-channels and thereafter can be detached.

Claims 2. and 3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the electrical energy is of radio frequency.

5. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the cosmetic agent is selected from the group consisting of xanthines, retinoids, α -hydroxy acids, β -hydroxy acids, α -2 adrenergic inhibitors, β -adrenergic agonists, aromatase inhibitors, anti-estrogens, hydroquinone, ascorbic acid, kojic acid, corticosteroids, mucopolysaccharides, collagen, estrogens, isoflavonoids, cinnamic acid, benzoyl peroxide, tropolone, catechol, mercaptoamine, niacinamide, tocopherol, ferulic acid, azelaic acid, botulinum, urea, a derivative or salt thereof.

6. (Original) The system according to claim 5, wherein the xanthine is caffeine.

7. (Original) The system according to claim 5, wherein the β -hydroxy acid is salicylic acid.

8. (Original) The system according to claim 5, wherein the cosmetic agent is hydroquinone.

9. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the cosmetic or dermatological composition further comprises ~~comprising~~ at least one component selected from the group consisting of surfactants, humectants, preservatives, antioxidants, powders, clarifying agents, coloring agents, opacifiers, thickeners, and perfumes, and the electrode cartridge is discarded after detachment from the main unit.

10. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the cosmetic or dermatological composition further comprising a pharmaceutical agent.

11. (Original) The system according to claim 10, wherein the pharmaceutical agent is an antibacterial agent.

12. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the cosmetic or dermatological composition is formulated in a form selected from the group consisting of anhydrous compositions, aqueous solutions, aqueous suspensions,

oil-in-water emulsions, water-in-oil emulsions, oily droplets in aqueous solutions, micelles, liposomes, ethosomes, and aqueous suspensions of nanoparticles.

13. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the cosmetic or dermatological composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of lotions, creams, ointments, gels, pastes, sprays, foams, sticks, and skin patches.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a skin condition in a subject comprising the steps of:

(i) generating a plurality of micro-channels in an area of skin of a subject suffering from a skin condition by an apparatus which comprises:

- a. an electrode cartridge comprising a plurality of electrodes to be oriented generally perpendicularly to the skin with electrode ends in the vicinity of the skin; and
- b. a main unit comprising a control unit which is adapted to apply electrical energy between two or more electrodes when the electrodes are in vicinity of the skin, typically generating current flow or one or more sparks, enabling ablation of stratum corneum in the area beneath the electrodes, thereby generating in the stratum corneum a plurality of micro-channels having a diameter of about 10 microns to about 100 microns and a depth of about 20 microns to about 300 microns; and

(ii) topically applying a dermatologically effective amount of a cosmetic or dermatological composition comprising at least one water-soluble, poorly water-soluble, or water-insoluble cosmetic agent and a cosmetically or dermatologically acceptable carrier to the area of the skin in which the micro-channels are present so as to improve the skin condition of said subject, the cosmetic or dermatological composition is devoid of permeation enhancers,

wherein the electrode cartridge is configured and dimensioned for removable attachment to the main unit wherein the cartridge is attached to the main unit for generating said plurality of micro-channels and thereafter can be detached.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein the cosmetic agent is selected from the group consisting of xanthines, retinoids, α -hydroxy acids, β -hydroxy acids, α -2 adrenergic inhibitors, β -adrenergic agonists, aromatase inhibitors, anti-estrogens, hydroquinone, ascorbic acid, kojic acid, corticosteroids, mucopolysaccharides, collagen, estrogens, isoflavonoids, cinnamic acid, benzoyl peroxide, tropolone, catechol, mercaptoamine, niacinamide, tocopherol, ferulic acid, azelaic acid, botulinum, urea, a derivative or salt thereof.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the xanthine is caffeine.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein the β -hydroxy acid is salicylic acid.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein the cosmetic agent is hydroquinone.

19. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 14, wherein the cosmetic or dermatological composition further comprises ~~comprising~~ at least one component selected from the group consisting of surfactants, humectants, preservatives, antioxidants, powders, clarifying agents, coloring agents, opacifiers, thickeners, and perfumes, and the electrode cartridge is discarded after detachment from the main unit.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein the cosmetic or dermatological composition further comprising a pharmaceutical agent.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein the pharmaceutical agent is an antibacterial agent.

22. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein the cosmetic or dermatological composition is formulated in a form selected from the group consisting of anhydrous compositions, aqueous solutions, aqueous suspensions, oil-in-water emulsions,

water-in-oil emulsions, oily droplets in aqueous solutions, micelles, liposomes, ethosomes, and aqueous suspensions of nanoparticles.

23. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein the cosmetic or dermatological composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of lotions, creams, ointments, gels, pastes, sprays, foams, sticks, and skin patches.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the skin condition is selected from cellulite, acne vulgaris, acne cystic, skin aging, skin wrinkles, hyperpigmentation, keratosis, skin blemish, dandruff, warts, photodamaged skin, chronic dermatoses, dermatitis, dryness, ichthyosis, viral infections, fungal infections, and bacterial skin infections.